

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /131 W
----- 004206

R 261820Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1057

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3069

DEPT PLEASE REPT TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC POSTS AND USCINCSO AS
INFO ADDRESSEES.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS ELECTIONS

REF: A. STATE 161463; B. STATE 121770

1. AT HIS REQUEST, I DROPPED BY THE OFFICE OF FONSEC GOMEZ
BERGES LAST EVENING FOR WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE AN HOUR AND A HALF
CHAT MOSTLY ABOUT OAS ELECTIONS. FOR DEPT BACKGROUND WHEN I
SAW FONSEC BRIEFLY AT HIS REQUEST ON JULY 23 REGARDING PLANS FOR
INAUGURATION, I HAD MENTIONED HAVING SEEN LOCAL PRESS REPORTS OF
HIS SUPPOSED CANDIDACY FOR OAS SEC GEN. FONSEC SAID HE WAS MYSTIFIED
AS TO ORIGIN, INTENDED TO LOOK INTO WHO AND WHAT WAS BEHIND IT,
AND THAT HE HAD SENT A MEMORANDUM TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO THAT
EFFECT IN ORDER TO AVOID RAISING ANY SUSPICIONS IN THE PRESIDENT'S
MIND THAT HE (FONSEC) WAS PLAYING GAMES AT THIS DELICATE TIME WHEN
THE PRESIDENT WAS PONDERING HIS NEW CABINET.

2. GOMEZ SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TELEPHONE CONTACT OVER PAST
TWO DAYS WITH DOMREP OAS AMBASSADOR MARCO DE PENA AND WITH
GODR UNDER SECRETARY LICELOTT MARTE DE BARRIOS WHO CURRENTLY
IN WASHINGTON ON LEADER GRANT AND HAD ASKED THEM TO INVESTIGATE
THE ORIGIN OF THE PRESS STORY. BOTH HAD REPORTED BACK THAT
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CONVERSATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF LA OAS AMBASSADORS AND FUNCTIONARIES

REGARDING HIS POSSIBLE CANDIDACY DID NOT REVEAL THE ORIGIN BUT HAD MET WITH VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE, HE SAID. UNDER SECRETARY BARRIOS ALSO REPORTED A MEETING WITH USOAS DEL JOHN FORD IN WHICH FORD VERY CLEARLY AND FIRMLY EXPLAINED US POLICY AS DESCRIBED REF B. ACCORDING TO FONSEC BERGES, BARRIOS OFFERED THREE CONSIDERATIONS TO FORD: (1) ALL PREVIOUS OAS SECGENS HAD BEEN FROM CONTINENTAL SOUTH AMERICA AND THE ONLY TWO CANDIDATES CURRENTLY ON THE SCENE (SAPENA PASTOR AND ORFILA) WERE SIMILARLY FROM THAT PART OF THE HEMISPHERE; (2) SAPENA PASTOR WAS DEEPLY ASSOCIATED WITH A DICTATORSHIP; AND (3) ORFILA REPRESENTED A COUNTRY WHOSE POLICY TOWARD CUBA WAS OPPOSED TO THAT OF THE US. THE IMPLICATION OF THE LAST TWO POINTS, ACCORDING TO GOMEZ, WAS DID THE US WISH TO SEE SUCH PERSONS AS OAS SECGEN. REGARDING ORFILA, GOMEZ SAID THAT ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO DOMREP RICCIARDI HAD INFORMED HIM THAT ORFILA WAS LACKING FULL SUPPORT IN GOA CIRCLES AND THAT IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT GOA WOULD BACK HIS CANDIDACY.

3. GOMEZ CONTINUED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT NEITHER MEXICO NOR COSTA RICA WISHED TO SEE SAPENA PASTOR AS SECGEN. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY REGARDING GODR ATTITUDE TOWARD SAPENA, GOMEZ SAID THAT SAPENA HAD APPROACHED HIM FOR SUPPORT IN ATLANTA AND HE HAD REPLIED THAT HE WOULD REFER THE MATTER TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER. HE SAID THAT HE HAD DONE SO IN A MEMORANDUM TO WHICH HE HAD AS YET RECEIVED NO REPLY.

4. I THEN EXPLAINED US POLICY AS CONTAINED REF B. IN RESPONSE TO GOMEZ' QUERY AS TO WHICH COUNTRIES SUPPORTED SABENA, I REPLIED THAT I DID NOT KNOW.

5. FONSEC GOMEZ ENDED OUR MEETING BY SAYING THAT HE WAS OFF TO SEE PRESIDENT BALAGUER TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIM.

6. COMMENT: THE POSSIBILITY OF OAS SECGEN CLEARLY INTRIGUES GOMEZ. WHEN I RECALLED TO HIM HIS HAVING MENTIONED TO ME HIS INTEREST IN THE POSITION OF GODR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, HE SAID HE HAD DECIDED AGAINST IT (READ PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAD PROBABLY DISCOURAGED HIM). OF PERTINENCE IS THE FACT THAT HE SAID THAT ALL FIVE FOREIGN SECRETARIES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA HAD OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED HIS PERSONAL INVITATION TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTEND BALAGUER'S INAUGURATION AS HAD THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF PANAMA. EITHER THE HAITIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY OR THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR WILL ATTEND ALSO HE SAID. SHOULD PRESIDENT BALAGUER AUTHORIZE HIM TO TAKE SOUNDINGS RE THE OAS SECGEN POSITION, THE AUGUST 16 INAUGURAL WILL BE A BUSY TIME FOR GOMEZ BERGES.
HURWITCH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ELECTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO03069
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740204-0052
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740714/aaaaaloo.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 161463; B. STATE 121770
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS ELECTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, DR, US, OAS, (GOMEZ BERGES, VICTOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005